

Application No. 09/470,787
 Amendment dated: April 7, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

Section 1.312 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) states that:

No amendment may be made as a matter of right in an application after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance. Any amendment filed pursuant to this section must be filed before or with the payment of the issue fee, and may be entered on the recommendation of the primary examiner, approved by the Commissioner, without withdrawing the application from issue.

The Applicant wishes to submit the above amendment for consideration under this section. A clean set of claims incorporating the Examiner's Amendment, and all prior amendments has been provided above. A re-ordering of the claims has been affected to consolidate claim groups. No new claims have been added, and no claims have been removed. To illustrate the re-ordering, the following chart providing a correlation between the original and renumbered claims is provided.

Original Claim #	Renumbered Claim #	Original Claim #	Renumbered Claim #
1	1	18	11
2	(cancelled)	19	18
3	2	20	(cancelled)
4	3	21	19
5	4	22	20
6	5	23	21
7	6	24	22
8	7	25	23
9	12	26	24
10	13	27	26
11	14	28	27
12	15	29	28
13	16	30	(cancelled)
14	17	31	29
15	8	32	30
16	9	33	25
17	10		

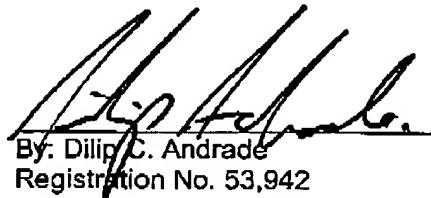
Applicant submits that no new matter has been added, and that no amendments to the claims have been made, other than the renumbering of claims and their dependencies.

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Applicant respectfully requests that entry of the above amendments be allowed. If the Examiner finds some of the amendments acceptable and some objectionable, the Examiner is requested to enter the Amendment in Part, in accordance with MPEP §714.16(e).

Applicant has also submitted, under separate cover, and on today's date a request for the priority claim previously made to be reflected on the cover page of the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,
WIBOWO, Eko Adi et al.



By: Dilip C. Andrade
Registration No. 53,942

BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS, LLP
World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa ON K1P 1J9
Canada
Telephone 613-787-3575
e-mail: dandrade@blgcanada.com